

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EPA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 OES-03 /013 R

DRAFTED BY EPA/A-106:KMACONAUGHEY:JCP

APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:HSPIELMAN

EPA/A-106:FGREEN

EPA/A-106:JBLANE

EA/J:CKARTMAN

----- 126308

R 192338Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, JA, US

SUBJECT: INFORMATION REQUEST FOR PCB'S

1. EPA REQUESTS EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING ANSWERS  
TO FOLLOWING QUESTIONS REGARDING POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS  
(PCB'S).

2. WHAT STEPS HAVE THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY OR OTHER  
AGENCIES TAKEN TO RESTRICT OR BAN USES OF PCB'S? HAS  
IMPORTATION OR EXPORTATION BEEN REGULATED? WHAT LEGISLA-  
TION HAS BEEN ENACTED CONCERNING PRODUCTION OR USES  
OF PCB'S OR FOR PROVIDING LEGAL BASIS FOR REGULATING  
PCB'S. IF LEGISLATION EXISTS, HOW IS IT IMPLEMENTED?

DOES TIME FRAME EXIST FOR ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS?  
IS TOTAL BAN OF PCB'S EVENTUALLY CONTEMPLATED?

3. ASSUMING TOTAL BAN NOT NOW IN EFFECT, ARE USES LIMITED  
AS AGREED AT OECD CONFERENCES OF 1973 I.E.,

DIELECTRIC FLUIDS

HEAT TRANSFER FLUIDS

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HYDRAULIC FLUIDS

SMALL CAPACITORS

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WILL THESE USES BE PHASED OUT AND IF SO, WHAT IS TIME SCHEDULE?

4. WHAT HAS BEEN ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RESTRICTIONS OR BAN OF PCB'S? WHAT SUBSTITUTES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED? HOW DO THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL AND FIRE HAZARD CHARACTERISTICS COMPARE TO THOSE OF PCB'S?

5. IS RESEARCH BEING CONDUCTED ON FINDING VIABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR PCB'S IN CLOSED ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS? HAVE DOW-CORNING, OR DOW CHEMICAL PRODUCTS BEEN SUBSTITUTED FOR PCB'S? ARE OTHER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FIRMS ACTIVE IN RESEARCH FOR SUBSTITUTES?

6. IF PCB'S HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED HAVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEVELS OF PCB'S SUBSIDED? PLEASE SEND ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL LEVELS AND RECENT TRENDS.

7. ARE THERE ANY NEW DATA ON HEALTH EFFECTS, ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS OR PERSISTANCE?

8. DO REGULATIONS EXIST FOR HANDLING, LABELING, STORAGE, AND DISPOSAL OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING OR CONTAMINATED BY PCB'S? TO WHAT EXTENT ARE PCB'S BEING RECLAIMED FOR SECOND GENERATION USES?

9. IF PRODUCTION OR IMPORT IS CONTINUING WHAT IS TOTAL POUNDAGE?

10. SUBJECT OF PCBS HAS BECOME VERY LIVELY IN US IN RECENT DAYS, AND EPA NEED INFORMATION FROM JAPAN BECAUSE OF ITS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE WITH PCB ENVIRONMENT PROBLEMS. FOR GUIDANCE IN SHAPING EPA APPROACH TO PROBLEM, NEED PRELIMINARY RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ABOVE BEFORE COB MONDAY, AUGUST 25, WITH DETAILS AND DOCUMENTATION TO FOLLOW ASAP.

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KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** SENV, JA, US  
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